**44th Session o the Universal Periodic Review Working Group**

**(6 – 17 November 2023)**

**UPR of Cuba**

Wednesday 15 November 2023, 09:00 – 12:30

Speaking time: 50 seconds

Thank you Mr. President.

Fiji welcomes and congratulates the delegation of Cuba for the presentation of its national report. As a fellow SIDS, Fiji understands the unique human rights challenges arising from the devastating impacts of climate change and natural disasters, and commends the Government’s efforts in strengthening its policy frameworks to address these.

Fiji offers the following recommendations:

1. Intensify efforts to develop and strengthen the necessary legislative frameworks that address cross-sectoral environmental challenges, including climate change and disaster risk reduction frameworks, with the full, effective and meaningful participation of persons in marginalized groups and in vulnerable situations; and
2. Enhance support services for victims of gender-based violence and take measures to raise awareness among relevant stakeholders of the specific needs and vulnerabilities of women and children who are victims of domestic and gender-based violence.

Thank you.

**138 words**